

STANISLAUS COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA, LAND CONVEYANCE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 356) to provide for the conveyance of certain property from the United States to Stanislaus County, California, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 356

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY.

As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in this Act referred to as "NASA") shall convey to Stanislaus County, California, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in section 2.

SEC. 2. PROPERTY DESCRIBED.

The property to be conveyed pursuant to section 1 is—

(1) the approximately 1528 acres of land in Stanislaus County, California, known as the NASA Ames Research Center, Crows Landing Facility (formerly known as the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, Crows Landing);

(2) all improvements on the land described in paragraph (1); and

(3) any other Federal property that is—

(A) under the jurisdiction of NASA;

(B) located on the land described in paragraph (1); and

(C) designated by NASA to be transferred to Stanislaus County, California.

SEC. 3. TERMS.

(a) **CONSIDERATION.**—The conveyance required by section 1 shall be without consideration other than that required by this section.

(b) **ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION.**—(1) The conveyance required by section 1 shall not relieve any Federal agency of any responsibility under law, policy, or Federal inter-agency agreement for any environmental remediation of soil, groundwater, or surface water.

(2) Any remediation of contamination, other than that described in paragraph (1), within or related to structures or fixtures on the property described in section 2 shall be subject to negotiation to the extent permitted by law.

(c) **RETAINED RIGHT OF USE.**—NASA shall retain the right to use for aviation activities, without consideration and on other terms and conditions mutually acceptable to NASA and Stanislaus County, California, the property described in section 2.

(d) **RELINQUISHMENT OF LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION.**—NASA shall relinquish, to the State of California, legislative jurisdiction over the property conveyed pursuant to section 1—

(1) by filing a notice of relinquishment with the Governor of California, which shall take effect upon acceptance thereof; or

(2) in any other manner prescribed by the laws of California.

(e) **ADDITIONAL TERMS.**—The Administrator of NASA may negotiate additional terms to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all

Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 356, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 356 requires NASA to convey property at the Ames Research Center to Stanislaus, California. NASA retains the right to use the property for aviation activities on mutually acceptable terms. The conveyance does not relieve any Federal agency of its responsibility for any environmental remediation of soil, groundwater, or surface water.

NASA relinquishes legislative jurisdiction over the property to the State of California. Any additional terms may be negotiated by the NASA Administrator to protect the interests of the United States.

The bill is sponsored by the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT). Last Congress, the Committee on Science supported this bill; and the House passed it. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak in support of H.R. 356. This bill was introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT). It has been favorably reported by the Subcommittee on Space.

Basically, the bill would convey a piece of excess property currently owned by NASA to Stanislaus County, California. The property was previously owned by the Navy and then transferred to NASA. NASA currently has no use for the property. This bill does, however, make provision for NASA to retain the right to use the property for aviation activities under terms and conditions mutually acceptable to NASA and to the county. In addition, it should be noted that the conveyance does not relieve the Federal Government of any responsibility for any environmental remediation.

This is a straightforward piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 356, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RAIL PASSENGER DISASTER
FAMILY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1999

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2681) to establish a program, coordinated by the National Transportation Safety Board, of assistance to families of passengers involved in rail passenger accidents.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2681

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rail Passenger Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE BY NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD TO FAMILIES OF PASSENGERS INVOLVED IN RAIL PASSENGER ACCIDENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter III of chapter 11 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 1137. Assistance to families of passengers involved in rail passenger accidents

"(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after being notified of a rail passenger accident within the United States involving a rail passenger carrier and resulting in a major loss of life, the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board shall—

"(1) designate and publicize the name and phone number of a director of family support services who shall be an employee of the Board and shall be responsible for acting as a point of contact within the Federal Government for the families of passengers involved in the accident and a liaison between the rail passenger carrier and the families; and

"(2) designate an independent nonprofit organization, with experience in disasters and posttrauma communication with families, which shall have primary responsibility for coordinating the emotional care and support of the families of passengers involved in the accident.

"(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD.**—The Board shall have primary Federal responsibility for—

"(1) facilitating the recovery and identification of fatally injured passengers involved in an accident described in subsection (a); and

"(2) communicating with the families of passengers involved in the accident as to the roles of—

"(A) the organization designated for an accident under subsection (a)(2);

"(B) government agencies; and

"(C) the rail passenger carrier involved, with respect to the accident and the post-accident activities.

"(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION.**—The organization designated for an accident under subsection (a)(2) shall have the following responsibilities with respect to the families of passengers involved in the accident:

"(1) To provide mental health and counseling services, in coordination with the disaster response team of the rail passenger carrier involved.

"(2) To take such actions as may be necessary to provide an environment in which the families may grieve in private.

"(3) To meet with the families who have traveled to the location of the accident, to contact the families unable to travel to such location, and to contact all affected families periodically thereafter until such time as the organization, in consultation with the director of family support services designated for the accident under subsection